HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE COMMISSIONER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

2000-2001

OCTOBER 1ST, 2001

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COMMISSIONER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

39 Hallett Crescent, O'Leary Industrial Park
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October 1st, 2001

Honourable Lloyd Snow
Speaker
House of Assembly
Main Floor, East Block
Confederation Building
St. John's, NF

Dear Speaker:

Pursuant to Section 35 of the House of Assembly Act - Part II Conflict of Interest, I am pleased to present the 2000-2001 Annual Report of the Commissioner of Members' Interests covering the period April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001 for tabling in the Legislature.

Sincerely yours ,

Wayne Green

Wayne Green
Commissioner of Members' Interests

Appointment of New Commissioner

On March 26, 2001, by Resolution of the House of Assembly, Mr. Wayne Green was appointed as the Commissioner of Members' Interests, under Section 34(2) of the House of Assembly Act, with effect from April 1, 2001.

This Report, submitted in accordance with Section 35 of the Act, covers the period April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001.

Annual Filing Requirement

Section 36(1) of the Act requires all members to file an Annual Disclosure Statement before April 1 of each year. On February 22, 2000 all members were written requesting that they file their statements. I am pleased that all members complied in meeting this requirement of the Act, although a number did not meet the April 1 deadline. Similarly some members did not sign their Public Disclosure Statements in a timely manner. A number of reminders were required from the Commissioner's office.

As the Public Disclosure Statements were signed, they were placed on file at the Commissioner's office for public inspection. It is not unusual for representatives of the media and party officials to visit the office to view these Statements.

Meetings with Members

In order for members and the Commissioner to meet their obligations under the Act, it is important that the lines of communication be open at all times. Should members have any questions of clarification, interpretation or require guidance the Commissioner is available to discuss specific issues. Some members had requested meetings for this purpose.

The cooperation of members is acknowledged, as is their desire to ensure they are in compliance with the provisions of the legislation.

Investigations

During the period covered by this Report there were no formal requests or applications from any member, the Honorable Premier or the House of Assembly to investigate any possible contravention of the Act by any member of the legislature.

Initial Disclosure Statements

As a result of by elections in the District of Trinity North on April 25, 2000 and in the District of St. Barbe and the District of The Straits and White Bay North on January 30, 2001, three new members had to file Initial Disclosure Statements within 60 days of being elected, as required in the Act. Although each member filed a statement, one member did not do so within the stipulated time period.

Compliance

Based on information contained in the Disclosure Statements it appears that all members are in compliance with the legislation and Public Disclosure Statements are on file in the Commissioner's office for public inspection for all 48 members for the period covered by this Report.

Members are reminded that in accordance with Section 36(4), any material change to information required to be disclosed to the Commissioner must be reported by the member to the Commissioner in writing not more than 60 days after the change occurs. While there have been instances where this requirement has not been met, there has been nothing to suggest it has been for any reason other than oversight.

Conferences

The Commissioner, was pleased to host the Annual Conference of the Canadian Conflict of Interest Network (C-COIN) in St. John's on September 29 and 30, 2000. C-COIN membership comprises the Provincial and Territorial Conflict of Interest/Ethics Commissioners, the Federal Ethics Councillor and a representative of the office of Values & Ethics of the Federal Treasury Board.

Annual Conferences provide Commissioners with an opportunity to exchange information on issues of common interest and review legislative and regulatory differences and trends.

Many of the delegates took advantage of the opportunity to stay here for a few days and see some of our province. The hosting of a reception for the delegates by His Honor, the Lieutenant Governor, was very much appreciated.